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THE 10 GUIDEPOSTS FOR 4-H PROGRAMS

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DELEGATES TO THE 24TH
NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CONGRESS, DECEMBER 3 - 6, 1945,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

We have just won a great military victory. The arms of our nation and our allies have succeeded in preventing brutality and force from engulfing the human race and subduing it in slavery for all time.

American youth were called on to rise in defense of the cause of human dignity--and they responded. They responded in a manner which will stand always as a proud record of youth's courage, vision, determination, and leadership. They responded to the call to arms, to the call for work in war plants, to the call in the battle of food production. The 4-H Club program helped mobilize you young people and your fellow 4-H members at home for this gigantic task. How well you all responded is shown by your splendid record since Pearl Harbor. For example, you 4-H members produced enough food to feed 3 million fighters for a year, bought or sold \$200,000,000 worth of war bonds, collected untold tons of scrap fat, paper, and metal.

That record has now been completed. The military victory is won. All who have had a part in this great youth achievement can feel justly proud.

But whether or not we can rise to the higher challenge that the military victory brings is up to every individual, everywhere. That higher challenge is for us now to build a permanent, just, and enduring peace.

The question then before you delegates at the 24th Annual 4-H Club Congress is:

CAN 4-H CLUB WORK BE ORGANIZED AS EFFECTIVELY AS IT WAS ORGANIZED FOR WAR, IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MOBILIZE THE ENERGIES OF YOUTH SO THAT THEY MAY HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF PEACE?

A national advisory group of State, county, and national 4-H leaders has been at work for many months giving a great deal of thought to four questions:

1. What are the problems that the experts say the people of America and of the world will face after the war?
2. How will they affect youth?
3. What opportunities for youth are there in solving these problems?
4. How can 4-H work be organized to help provide opportunities for youth to mobilize effectively toward solving problems of peace?

Out of these deliberations have come 10 guideposts for future 4-H programs. The plan of the 24th Annual Club Congress provides an opportunity

for each delegate to discuss these 10 guideposts and the organization needed for future 4-H work to the end that each delegate may help build a stronger program for youth in his own State and county.

TEN GUIDEPOSTS FOR 4-H CLUB PROGRAMS

To help prepare tomorrow's citizens, physically, mentally, and spiritually, 4-H Club work provides opportunities for voluntary participation in programs, built on needs and interests, through which youth are:

- I. DEVELOPING TALENTS FOR GREATER USEFULNESS.
- II. JOINING WITH FRIENDS FOR WORK, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP.
- III. LEARNING TO LIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD.
- IV. CHOOSING A WAY TO EARN A LIVING.
- V. PRODUCING FOOD AND FIBER FOR HOME AND MARKET.
- VI. CREATING BETTER HOMES FOR BETTER LIVING.
- VII. CONSERVING NATURE'S RESOURCES FOR SECURITY AND HAPPINESS.
- VIII. BUILDING HEALTH FOR A STRONG AMERICA.
- IX. SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT.
- X. SERVING AS CITIZENS IN MAINTAINING WORLD PEACE.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The discussion in each of your groups will concern itself under each guidepost with (a) the kind of problems you see ahead, either as your very own, or in your community, the nation or world. It will concern itself with (b) how you believe these situations affect you and other young people like you, and (c) what you would like to know and do about them. Then you may want to discuss (d) how your 4-H Club program can help give you and all young people in your community a chance to do something about them.

The following statements are intended to show what types of problems can be attacked under each guidepost. Also listed are types of questions which you may wish to consider.

GUIDEPOST I

DEVELOPING TALENTS FOR GREATER USEFULNESS

The need for competent, self-reliant, intelligent, and useful citizens is a commonly accepted fact.

Men and women of tomorrow need to know:

- (a) How to grow and produce things better, as using better varieties.

- (b) How to use machines and tools like tractors and electric equipment effectively.
- (c) How to create and construct things, like building a house or designing a garment.

They need also to know and be able to:

- (a) Live with other people.
- (b) Be leaders of good causes.
- (c) Understand the world about them.

About 50 per cent of all rural youth will leave the farm. But whether city youth go to the farm to make a living, or rural youth go to the city to live, they need to be useful citizens and be able to do many things.

All must bring with them—

- (a) Desirable work habits.
- (b) Worthy ideals.
- (c) Good habits of thrift, honesty, fair play, cooperation, industry, and tolerance.

Questions:

What do you think are the earmarks of a useful citizen?

What do young people want to do to become useful citizens in your community?

How can club work help you become more useful? What kind of programs need to be included?

GUIDEPOST II

JOINING WITH FRIENDS FOR WORK, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

We know that all you young people want to learn to work and do something useful and worth while; and that you would like to learn to do things better, with your friends, in new and interesting ways.

Some communities do not have good, wholesome recreational facilities. Often good times with the family or with friends are needed but overlooked. Camping experience is available to only a relatively few young people.

Questions:

In what different kinds of work do you have a chance to take part, in your 4-H Club?

In what other kinds of work should young people have a chance to take part?

What kind of wholesome fun do young people of your age like to take part in?

What kind of recreation does your community offer?

What can you do about all this?

GUIDEPOST III

LEARNING TO LIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD

Large-scale readjustments and shifts in agricultural production and marketing are inevitable in the next few years. Skillful planning, and the use of the best technical information and the most efficient tools and machinery will be necessary for the successful farmer. The needed food and fiber of the world can be produced by fewer and fewer farm people.

Great readjustments in ways of earning a livelihood, as well as in the manner in which we live and find happiness, will result as we learn more about science and use it in everyday living, as we learn more about the way people live and what makes them behave as they do, as transportation and communication cause us to change our ways of doing business, and as we use more machines and thus save more labor.

Questions:

What new kinds of crops do you believe will be grown in your area soon?

Are there committees in your county studying changes and adjustments in production? Are youth represented on such committees?

How will the airplane affect your community?

Do young people know how to use farm power properly?

What would happen to your community if we had another depression?

What opportunities for youth do you see in the changing world?

What kinds of programs do you think 4-H Club work could develop to help young people adjust to a changing world?

GUIDEPOST IV

CHOOSING A WAY TO EARN A LIVING

There are at least three important decisions everyone must make. They are: "What shall I be?" (life work)

"With whom shall I be it?" (partner)

"Where shall I live?" (location)

About 50 per cent of rural young people must choose a life work off the farm. It is vital to maintain in agriculture a sufficient number of people efficient and happy in farming. Some of these may come from the urban areas.

The decision of what kind of livelihood to engage in is up to each individual. However, if he has acquired the proper attitude, knowledge, skill, and judgment while young, he will be in a better position to make a wise choice later. He also needs to know the opportunities in many lines of work open to him.

A girl who has learned to make her own clothes has a basis for deciding, "Would I like to be a dress designer?" Or a boy who has learned to care for and repair farm tractors or electrical equipment has a basis for asking, "Shall I be an engineer or mechanic?" And a successful experience with poultry and dairy animals may help the boy or girl decide "Would I rather be a poultryman or a dairy farmer?"

Questions:

On what basis do you think most young people make their decisions regarding what they would like to be?

How does 4-H Club work help young people make good decisions?

What kind of experiences or facts do young people want to help them make good choices?

How could your 4-H program bring such help to your community?

GUIDEPOST V

PRODUCING FOOD AND FIBER FOR HOME AND MARKET

The wartime demands for many expanded food and fiber crops will change as our food sent to war-torn countries is displaced by crops produced by these nations themselves.

Trade with foreign countries will affect what we should produce and the prices we will get.

Demands in this country will be reflected by many factors, too, including industrial production and dietary needs of our people.

Many farms have a very low income regardless of price or production. Others have a good living even if farm prices are relatively low. Many rural people do not own their own farms.

Many farms are not using modern methods or taking full advantage of the results of research and experimentation.

Questions:

What do you think gives farm people a good living?

How could you help raise the farm income on your farm?

What effect will changing world markets have on agriculture in your community?

What can young people do in the fields of food and fiber production to make a better living on the farm?

What should young people know about marketing, production, and world conditions?

How can your 4-H program help?

What effect does farm income have on young people?

GUIDEPOST VI

CREATING BETTER HOMES FOR BETTER LIVING

Everyone likes to be proud of his home. "Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home" is a basic truth.

About one-third of the nation's rural homes are beyond repair. Most of the rest could be improved by painting, repairing, planting, and modernizing.

Young people like to have a spot in the home that they can call their own. Much can be done by young people to make their homes a better place in which to live.

Questions:

What do you think makes up a good home?

What do the homes in your community need most?

What can young people do about it?

What should young people learn to do in order to help create better homes?

How can 4-H Club work help youth do the job?

How can young people make their homes better both inside and out?

GUIDEPOST VII

CONSERVING NATURE'S RESOURCES FOR SECURITY AND HAPPINESS

For at least a generation now we have seen increasingly frequent and extensive examples of areas blighted because the soil was depleted, the timber gone, water lacking or resources put to unsuitable uses.

If agriculture and its associated industries are to flourish soundly, both in the immediate and in the more distant future, it is urgently necessary to adopt progressive and truly effective measures to improve, protect, restore, utilize, and maintain the Nation's natural resources.

Conservation must take a firm hold on our moral sense--and even more important, we must act and in a manner much more adequate than in the past.

Questions:

What is the situation in your community regarding (a) soil, (b) wildlife, (c) game, (d) timber and wood lots, (e) water, (f) fish?

What should be done in your community to improve the situation?

How are young people taking hold of the problem?

What more should be done?

How do you think the 4-H Club program could provide a way for young people to help with this job?

GUIDEPOST VIII
BUILDING HEALTH FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Recent draft figures show that about 40 per cent of all youth examined were unfit for military service. Large numbers were suffering from mental illness, physical defects, cardiovascular defects, eye defects, and hernia. Many defects were relatively minor but if undetected and untreated, might become increasingly serious.

One-fourth of our farm families are using diets that are not adequate to meet nutritional needs.

Most health problems go beyond the individual. Good examples are malaria, typhoid, and tuberculosis.

Large numbers of people are killed or injured accidentally each year. Eighty per cent of these accidents can be prevented.

Questions:

What community health problems could young people attack in your county?

What kinds of health problems can be attacked by the individual? By a group? By the whole community? By the family?

How can 4-H Club work in your county include ways for young people to help improve personal and community health?

GUIDEPOST IX
SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Not only do families need adequate income, but they also need to use it wisely. This income will give satisfaction to the extent that it satisfies all desires and needs of living. Good communities with libraries, good schools, desirable recreation centers, strong churches, good roads, and wise community leadership help bring more satisfaction to rural living. Besides, an appreciation of the things the countryside provides so abundantly can make a marked impression on desirable ways of living.

Each community has its advantages and its shortcomings. Each can be improved. The responsibility rests with those who are coming of age as well as those adults who already have made their impression on community life.

Questions:

What kinds of improvements would you like to see made in your community?

Who should do it?

What kinds of improvements would young people appreciate right now?

How can young people and adults get together for community improvement?

What kinds of services can 4-H members perform?

GUIDEPOST X

SERVING AS CITIZENS IN MAINTAINING WORLD PEACE

The desire for world peace, the need for it, and its paramount importance are now obvious to everyone. The atomic bomb has demonstrated, if nothing else has, that men must find a new practical way of living with one another. That peace is everyone's business, but particularly the business of youth, is generally accepted. But maintenance of peace is complicated. Trade, prices, resources, habits of people, land, politics, agriculture, science--all are involved.

Questions:

How is world peace affected by (a) agricultural production?
(b) world armaments or lack of them? (c) foreign trade?

How do public policies in your community affect peace?

What should young people know about world organization?

What can you do about it through your 4-H Club program?